

FEBRUARY

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

FEBRUARY MEETING

DATE: Wednesday evening, February 15
TIME: 7:30 p.m. and again at approximately 8:40 p.m.
PLACE: May Treat Morrison Auditorium
SPEAKER: Dr. Nathan W. Cohen
SUBJECT: "THE AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF CALIFORNIA (and somewhere else)."

Dr. Cohen, Head, Letters and Science Extension, University of California Extension at Berkeley, first became involved in color photography of amphibians and reptiles when a graduate student at Berkeley. Another graduate student had heard he had been a civilian photographer for the Navy during World War II, and asked him to take some color photographs of salamanders for a doctoral thesis. Dr. Cohen quickly saw that such pictures would help supplement the preserved specimens which a student ordinarily encounters in a laboratory. Thus he was launched on a type of picture-taking which continues to this day.

His photographs have appeared in "Living Reptiles of the World," the Life Nature Series, "Reptiles", the Audubon Nature Series, and both the Encyclopedia Britannica and Encyclopedia Americana, among others.

As indicated above, Dr. Cohen will present his lecture twice during the evening.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"RAINBOWS, AURORAS AND OTHER WONDERS" continues in the Theatre of the Stars through February 26. The remarkable abilities of the great star projector are demonstrated lavishly in this colorful sky show. The simulated display of the aurora borealis is a breath-taking delight.

Performances daily at 2:00 p.m. with evening shows, Wednesday through Sunday, at 8:30. Extra matinees on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays at 3:30. The Planetarium is closed on Monday and Tuesday nights. Admission: Adults, \$1.00. Children, 50c.

MORRISON AUDITORIUM

"EXPEDITION!", a documentary film in color photographed by Academy scientists, is shown exclusively at the Academy on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays at 12:45, 2:15, and 3:45 p.m. Adults: \$1.00. Children, 50c.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

From the Academy Collections, Main Foyer, Hall of Science: "NARWHAL TUSK", the long, twisted, pointed, hornlike tusk which makes one believe in unicorns but which is actually that of an arctic cetacean. This remarkable six foot specimen was collected by former Trustee and Fellow and Honorary Member of the Academy, Miss Louise A. Boyd. Exhibit continues through March.

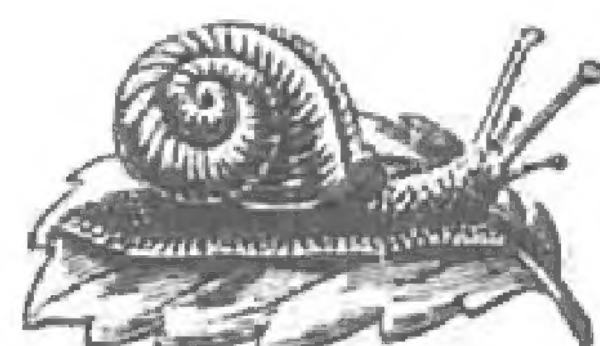
"CAMOUFLAGE IN NATURE", because of its singular success, continues in Lovell White Hall of Man and Nature. Remarkable photographs by Dr. Edward S. Ross, Curator of Entomology.

There is a new permanent exhibit devoted to spices in the Alice Eastwood Hall of Botany.

NEWS and NOTES

THROUGH THE GENEROSITY of the late Miss Ruth E. Coats of Carlsbad, California, the Academy has inherited an important and sizable shell collection as well as an extensive malacological library. The 75 large trays holding tens of thousands of shells took three men two and one-half days to prepare for shipment from southern California.

Miss Coats, who was a lifelong collector, amassed specimens world-wide in scope. Of particular importance to the CAS are some duplicates of Academy material destroyed in the earthquake and fire of 1906. This, coupled with rare, deepwater material



from Australia, Japan, Africa and the Pacific in general, make the gift welcome indeed. Cone shells, volutes and cowries are specially well represented.

The hundreds of volumes in the malacological library include many rarities. Among them are the "Index Testarum Conchyliorum" of Nicolai Gualtieri published in 1762, a first edition of the Martini-Chemnitz "Conchylien-Cabinet" which appeared in Nürnberg in the 1770's, and the "Recueil, d'Observations de Zoologie" of Humboldt and Bonpland, pub-

lished 1833. Up until now, the Academy has had only a European photostat of the last named title and we now are most grateful, and fortunate, to have an original.

Duplicates in this fine inheritance of specimens and books will be shared with other institutions. We wish to express our gratitude to Mrs. Emma Coats, the deceased's mother, and to her brothers, Al and William R. for their generous cooperation.

Miss Coats' mineral collection and mineralogical library were bequeathed to Palomar College, San Marcos, California.

THE HALL OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS now boasts an important improvement in the form of a completely refurbished "John Ward Mailliard Memorial Exhibit of Birds of the San Francisco Bay Region." Hundreds of avian specimens are presented in seven walnut cases, each with a canted glass front and excellent lighting. In many instances, both sexes are represented. In others, it is interesting to compare the immature and mature stages of development.

The fine craftsmanship evident in the cabinetwork is that of Konstantin Kurkin, a new staff member in the Carpenter Shop. North American Bird Hall never looked so well. Further improvements for this area of the Academy are now being planned.

MARINELAND OF THE PACIFIC in southern California remembered Steinhart Aquarium handsomely at Christmastime with a gift in the form of a specimen of *Promicrops lanceolatus*, commonly known as the Queensland grouper from Australia. The shy, four-inch fish which may be found in Tank #105 is, at present, not particularly impressive, but when mature it can reach a length of 12 feet and weigh between 800 and 1,000 pounds, belonging as it does to the world's largest grouper group.

There are unauthenticated reports of these formidable fish having swallowed skin divers alive. In many quarters, they are feared more than sharks.

RECENT SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

PROCEEDINGS

"The Gulf Islands Expedition of 1966", George E. Lindsay. Vol. XXX, No. 16, December 30, 1966. \$1.00

ACADEMY SCIENTISTS have contributed importantly to a recent publication of the University of California Press. The volume is entitled "The Galapagos, Proceedings of the Symposia of the Galapagos International Scientific Project" and is one result of the eleven-week interdisciplinary program in science which took place in 1964 in the "enchanted isles." The volume is edited by Dr. Robert I. Bowman, Research Associate in Birds and Mammals.

Other scientists directly or indirectly associated with the Academy who contributed to this work are Dr. J. Wyatt Durham, Dr. Joel W. Hedgpeth, Dr. E. Gorton Linsley, Dr. Robert C. Miller, Dr. Robert T. Orr, Mr. Allyn G. Smith, Dr. Robert L. Usinger, and Dr. Ira L. Wiggins.

THIS A REMINDER that the three springtime astronomy courses presented by the staff of Morrison Planetarium begin on February 6, 7 and 9. Check your January NEWSLETTER for details or telephone the Planetarium Office at 221-5100, Extension 71.

MEET THE STAFF



MARY STILWELL, Library Assistant in the J. W. Mailliard, Jr., Library, was born in Tulsa and received her Bachelor of Sciences degree in Business Education as well as a teaching credential at the University of Oklahoma. During these years she was employed part-time in the library of the School of Architecture where a taste for bookish places was born.

In 1958 she decided to migrate west and to San Francisco. The further training necessary to teach in California schools put a halt to her teaching ambitions so she took a job in the statistical department

of Macy's Department Store. Subsequently, she went to work for the American Institute of Architects. When this employment vanished, she moved on to Englehard Industries, a firm dealing in precious metals.

A new friend in San Francisco was employed at the Academy and conversations with her led to an interest in the complex in Golden Gate Park. An interview with the Librarian ended in her joining the staff in September 1963 as a typist. Since then, she has been performing many of the diverse duties that have a way of popping up in libraries, and recently has started cataloging.

Mary is a weekend tennis player, and when the weather is right, journeys to the Sierras for skiing. For the past three years she has been attending a night course in sewing and fashion design where she has learned tailoring and pattern drafting. As a result, she designs and makes her own clothes. As time permits, she decorates her apartment, listens to Berlioz and Dvorak, and enjoys the symphony and the theatre.

Top-ranking ambitions are to learn to control a potter's wheel and to strum properly a mandolin that has been too-long neglected.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

Regular Membership

Mr. Austin Alley	Mrs. Thelma Main
Mr. W. H. Borcharding	Mr. David H. Miller
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Mr. & Mrs. John E. Horner	Mr. & Mrs. David R. Wilson

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Dr. Robert F. Helzer

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Keith Cary
David Lindsey

THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
GOLDEN GATE PARK • SAN FRANCISCO 94118

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